

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A keypad assembly for a portable radiotelephone comprising:
 - a printed circuit board having a plurality of metal domes;
 - a keypad rubber disposed on the printed circuit board and having bosses formed integrally on the positions corresponding to the plurality of metal domes;
 - a sensing means disposed on the keypad rubber; and
 - a key button part disposed on the sensing means,whereby a touch screen function using the sensing means or a key button function electrically contacting the metal domes is selectively used according to the mode of the radiotelephone.
2. The keypad assembly for a portable radiotelephone according to claim 1, wherein the sensing means is a capacitive sensor.
3. The keypad assembly for a portable radiotelephone according to claim 1, wherein the key button part is a film sheet attached to the upper surface of the sensing means, the film sheet having a plurality of numeral keys printed thereon.
4. A portable radiotelephone comprising:
 - an input unit having a keypad which can alternatively function as a touch screen panel;
 - a control unit for generating a control signal to operate the input unit as the touch screen panel or as the keypad according a the mode set by a user; and
 - a power supply unit for exclusively supplying a driving power to the touch screen panel

or the keypad according to the control signal from the control unit.

5. The portable radiotelephone according to claim 4, further comprising a character recognition unit for converting a coordinate value into a character code when the input unit functions as the touch screen panel, the coordinate value being produced from the input unit by a user's contacting an upper surface of the touch screen panel.

6. The portable radiotelephone according to claim 5, further comprising a display unit for displaying a character corresponding to the character code from the character recognition unit.

7. A method of exclusively operating a touch screen panel or a keypad in a portable radiotelephone having a keypad which can alternatively function as a touch screen panel, comprising the steps of:

- determining whether or not an input mode shift key is inputted;
- shifting the input mode from a keypad input mode to a touch screen input mode if the input mode shift key is inputted; and
- cutting off a driving power supplied to the keypad, and supplying the driving power to the touch screen panel.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

- determining whether or not the input mode shift key is inputted;
- shifting the input mode from a touch screen input mode to a keypad input mode if the input mode shift key is inputted; and

cutting off the driving power supplied to the touch screen panel, and supplying the driving power to the keypad.